The ENGLISH-MAN's *Allegiance*:

OR,

Our *Indiſpenſable* Duty by *Nature*, by *Oaths*, and by *Law*, to our *Lawful King*.

Ante leves ergo paſcentur in æthere Cervi;
Et freta deſtituent nudos in littore Piſces;
Quam noſtro Illius *labatur pectore Vultus.* Virg.

BEing as *fully* ſenſible, as any Man breathing, how *much* we *OWE* to the late *Pious*, and *Diſintereſted* Undertaking of the *Matchleſs* Prince of *Orange*, now our declar'd *True* and *Lawful* Soveraign: And being alſo as *intirely* convinc'd, as the beſt of my Fellow-ſubjects, of his *Wonderful* *PRUDENCE* ever ſince, which renders him (we muſt confeſs) *Worthy* of the Crown, were his *TITLE* *queſtionable*, as having put the whole Nation in the preſent *happy* State; nay, *fixt* (beſides our *Liberties* and *Religion*) the *Monarchy* it ſelf, on a moſt *firm* and a *durable* Foundation. I ſay, being *fully* ſenſible, and *intirely* convinc'd of *all* This; and finding beſides, by the *ſober*, *cool*, and *well-temper*'d Votes of our *Loyal* and moſt *Legal Parliament*, (I mean thoſe of the *Houſe* of *Commons*) *That all Perſons, (whether Men or Women) above the Age of Sixteen, are to take the Oaths of Allegiance, or be Impriſon'd without Bail or Mainprize*, I thought it an incumbent *Duty* (being a known Patriot, and yet walk ever *Incognito*) to caſt in my Mite; that is, in other terms, *to do ſomething*; and what (conſidering ſome Circumſtances) can I *do* more *(for if I could I would do it without fail)* than *adviſe* Loyalty to others, as well as *practiſe* it my ſelf? Therefore, in this ſmall *Treatiſe*, I ſhall ſhew to the World, even *to all that have their Eyes* (as the uſual Phraſe is) *upon our World*, That as following a *River* is a moſt *certain way* for a young Virtuoſo to find out the *Sea*, ſo the *breaking Allegiance* is the *ready*, and *Infallible Road* to the *Devil*. Now, ſeeing what I am to Diſcuſs is a very *difficult* and *nice* Point, (and who in manners and good breeding can call that *Eaſie*, which has many *hard* and *wilful* Antagoniſts) I intend to handle it in exact form, and like a Grave *School-man*, or perchance a *School-Boy*, and ſo muſt tell my *Reader* as well *what I am not*, as *what I am*.

Firſt, *Negative*: *I am not* a *Quaker*, for I can ſwear, and have both *ſworn Allegiance*, and am alſo very fully reſolv'd to *keep* it, as firmly believing, *that whoever makes a Vow, I will require it at his hands, ſays the Lord.* Secondly, *I am no Commonwealths-man*, and therefore had far rather hear the *Dutch* (whoſe *Wit* and *Language* I ſtrangely fancy) call an *Engliſh-man-of-War* the *Conſtant Prater*, than our own people ſtile an *Engliſh-Gown-man* the *Conſtant Speaker*: Nor do I by any means admire a *Duke of Venice*, unleſs it be in the *Morea*, or ſome other p rt of *Turkey*. Thirdly, *Affirmative*, I am; and *three* or *thrice* bring generally *moſt men* (as well as *Poets*) to the *point*: Nay, it diſtinguiſhes a *Chriſtian* from an *Infidel*, and makes even *Dogs* (according to

Plutarch) to *Syllogize*, and find out a *Hare* without *ſmelling*; and truly I love *three Things*, or *three Perſons* with all my heart, as I gueſs my *Reader* will (tho I am about *Oaths*) preſently *Believe* without an *Oath*. I ſay, Thirdly, Affirmatively, *I am one Born and Bred in the Church of England*, that extremely lov'd *Plumb-Broth* when *Porredge* was out of *Faſhion*; that Eat many a *Mince-Pye* in Defiance of the *Directory*; and that ſtill daily ſays, *We have Err'd and ſtray'd like loſt Sheep*. Beſides, *I am* of the *long Robe*, eſpecially when I put on a *Night-gown*, and ready therefore (*ſecundum Artem*) to give it under my hand, that *Abdicating* is a far leſs *Engliſh* Law-Term, than *Diſpenſing*. In my *Family* (for want of a Chaplain) I ſay *Grace my ſelf*, and then *heartily pray* (according to the Ancient Rubricks and Canons) *for both Their Majeſties and the Prince*; that is (in the words at length) for *King*, *Queen*, and *Prince* of —— *Denmark*; and doubtleſs, this *laſt petition* is moſt *decent* and *juſt*, for if we conſider that *Hero* in *himſelf*, he is certainly a *Great Man*, but when we Reflect upon *the preſent Courteſie of England* (by which *Men precede* their *Wives*) he is a kind of an *Heir apparent*. Now had this been *Law* in other places, *Jack* in the *Old Tale* of *Ruſhy Coat* (who ran away with the *Kings Daughter*) would have been the *True King*, and ſhe in her own Kingdom only *Hoyty Toyty*, and *Nominal*; but all *Legiſlators* are not of the ſame opinion as the *Hebrew* Proverb has it.

So much then for the *Porch* or *Preliminaries*; now for the *Main Body of the Fabrick*, and thence to the *Penetralia, and innermoſt Receſſes* of the very *Oracle*. For to ſpeak the plain Truth (after *Puns* and *Witticiſms* of that Nature) I love plain dealing, and therefore was from Youth (tho it may ſeem, at firſt daſh, a *Bull*) much inclin'd to *Riddles*, and to Doat on *Enigma's* and *Hieroglyphicks*, which ſtill makes me think *Sphinx* the greateſt *She-Philoſopher* among the Ancients; and yet I acknowledge I ſhall never willingly follow her *Example*, ſhould any *Ingenious* and *Egiptiacally-Abſtruſe* Meaning of mine be found out. But certainly, no way of *Speaking*, and of *Writing* alſo, can be more *proper* for our *Refin'd Age* and *Nation*, ſince we have ſo many *rare men*, ſo many *Oedipus's* (nay, greater than *he*) among us; *Sparks* that to ſerve a Turn, can *Kill a Father*, without *rubbing an Eye*; and would *Lye* too with their *Mother*, out of a meer Experiment or *Joke*. *JOCASTA* (Mr. *Bays*) *JOCASTA*! Pray remember that *happy* jeſt, and particularly, what a *Bob* (in your own way) I have given to *Tottenham-Court*; or as ſome now write it, *Totteridge, alias Tottering-Court*, and then confeſs I have out-done you a whole Bar and a half.

But to the buſineſs; and firſt for Definitions, Axioms, or common receiv'd Opinions.

A *Promiſſary Oath*, or *Vow* (Terms here Synonimous) is not only a *Declaration, That as ſure as God is, or has a Being, I will make good my Word*, but alſo a ſincere *Supplication* and *Wiſh, That he would (if I fail in it) both eternally deprive me of his bleſſed ſight, and throw me headlong into Hell.*

All *Oaths lawfully injoyn'd*, are ever to be taken *in the ſenſe and meaning of the Impoſer*; ſeeing otherwiſe, a *Cardinal* might *poſſibly* (without *breach* of Principles) *take the Oath of Supremacy*; which *poſſibility* Enervating the whole *Drift* and *Intent* of the *Oath*, renders the Action a *ſin* in it ſelf, for who without

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ſin can *take Gods Name in Vain?* To wit, conſiderately uſe it to *no purpoſe?*

Theſe *Oaths* are ever to be *Impos'd* by *Lawful Authority*; that is to ſay, by thoſe that have *Right to do it*, for elſe they oblige no more, than if a *Filoux*, a *Highway-Man*, or any other *Atheiſtical Ruffian* ſhould (by *Invading*, or ſetting upon us on the Road, or any place elſe) *force* us to *ſwear*. Nay, the bare *compliance* in taking ſuch an *Oath* (tho upon *Compulſion*) may chance to be a *ſin* to be *repented* of with many Tears; eſpecially, *if we have already taken the contrary by lawful order.* But the *inſiſting* upon ſuch a *Contradictory Oath*, or intending to *make it good*, is a *Double Crime*; ſo that *continuing* thus to the end, is *final Impenitence*, and conſequently equal to the *ſin* againſt the *Holy Ghoſt*.

The *Supream Lawful Authority* of *England* is our *Lawful King*; all other *Lawful Authority* in the Kingdom being but *ſubordinate*, and Act by his Commiſſion. Nay, our very *Laws* are not only call'd *his*, but (as Laws) *ſolely* made by *Him*; for tho the matter be *Conſider'd*, and the words *put in order* by the Wiſdom of a *Parliament*, yet *all* is but a *Lump*, a *Dead Letter*, till his *Fiat* gives it Life. And as the *Scripture* calls *Kings Gods*, by reaſon of their *high* and *neceſſary* Attributes, ſo nothing can better Quadrate with that Allegorical Title, than the *common* and *uſual* Rhetorick of our moſt *Ancient Lawyers*, when they *treat* of the *Majeſty*, *Power*, and *Right* of our *Kings*.

Our *Lawful King*, (and to him our *Obedience* in *only* Due) ſits *always* on a *Hill*, and is as *Conſpicuous* as the *Pyramids* of *Modin*, the *Tombs* of the *Maccabees*, *which might be ſeen even by all that ſail'd on the Sea.* The *Inſcription* on his *Throne* is in ſuch *legible* Characters, *that he that runs may read it*: Nor can any *Native* of *England*, or *Scotland*, poſſibly *miſtake* his *Royal* and *Sacred Perſon*, unleſs the *Remainder* of thoſe *ten Tribes*, who could (in *Defiance* of *Law* and *Law-Makers*) ſet up a *Calf* in *Dan* and *Bethel*, and yet *own* themſelves *ſtill* in the *Right*.

Our *Obedience* to our *Lawful King* is not only *poſitively*, and *explicitly* injoyn'd by the *Word of God*, who equals *Rebellion* to the *Higheſt Crime*; but we are *oblig'd* to *it* by the very *Law* of *Nature*, which Dictating *Self-preſervation*, tells us, that Government is the *only* Medium to it; and conſequently, that even *Tyranny* in the Abſtract, is far better than *Anarchy* and Confuſion. Yet ſeeing the Depravity and Corruption of Mankind is great, and that without *refreſhing Artifices*, our very memory grows torpid, if not wholly loſt; *Good Men* in all Ages thought it *neceſſary to impoſe Oaths*, and *Enact Laws* alſo to *preſerve Obedience*.

In a Well-meaning man (by the *ſacredneſs* of the action, and by the *grievous penalty* that follows the *Breach*) Swearing, or a *juſt Oath*, makes his *Conſcience* ſtrangely *mindful* of the thing, tho a *known Duty before*; nay, we ſee ſometimes great Effects of it even in private *Oaths* between man and man, for by this means a *Profligate Rogue* ſhall ſometimes (*V. G.*) *pay a Debt* which he never perchance intended to do, a *Drunkard* to continue for a while *ſober*; and it may be, a *Common Whore* as long *Continent*: So that *Lawful Governours* finding this and the like by Experience, have (on emergent occaſions) *ſworn* their *Subjects* in general, as well as *Miniſterial Officers* in particular; even to thoſe very things (as I ſaid) which they all knew they were *oblig'd* to *before*, both by *Nature* and *Religion*.

Obedience being the firſt *Poſtulat* in *Government*, and *indiſpenſably* due to it, our *principal Laws* have therefore *Exacted* it *from us*, to our *Lawful King*, under the *higheſt* Puniſhments, and call even the *lifting* up of a *Finger* againſt his *Sacred Perſon*, not only *Treaſon*, but (fully to awaken and terrifie us) give it the moſt horrid and ſacrilegious Name of *Killing him*; nay, our *Law* (like the Precepts of the *Goſpel*) deſcends even to *thoughts*; and (to ſilence *all* Criticiſms and Excuſes in *unquiet Breaſts*) it declares not only *that the Crown takes away all former Blemiſhes and Faults*, but *that the King can do no Wrong*. Now to ſhew us that this is *indiſputably* ſo, no *ſubject* from the beginning of *Monarchy* among us (which is far *Antienter* than our very *Records*) was ever yet *Indicted for Rebelling, or Maliciouſly doing the King Harm*, that (the Fact being *prov'd*) did eſcape Conviction, *let his Pretence, Reaſon or Plea be what it would*. Even *Bethel* and *Corniſh* knew this full well, and that 'twas paſt *all Art* to bring the moſt *Pick'd* and *Garbled* Jury to the *Impudence* of doing *otherwiſe*; ſo that *Ignoramus* to ſave a *Noble Peer*, was forc'd to *Damn* and disbelieve three Diſcoverers in *Oats*'s Plot, even *three Saviours* of the Nation, with *ſeven more of the ſecond Rate*, Men *once* of mighty Fame and Valour, for the whole Gang (tho *they* and *others* had *made Cha.* II. long before, *blacker* every way than his *hair*) were yet ſufficiently aſſur'd that *this* (if true) *leſſen'd not his Royal Authority*, and that all *Defences* of that Nature, were *too weak* to *ſtop* the Fury of the *Law*, that Uncontroulable Bear, if once Unmuzzl'd and let looſe. All which *demonſtrates* what we *owe* to our *Lawful Soveraign*, and that *his* Perſon being *out* of the *reach* of Man, can cry *peccavi* to *none* but *God*.

This being then the ſumm of our *written*, as well as often *inculcated* Conſtitutions, the preſent *Repetition* cannot but be infinitely *ſerviceable* to the *Mighty WILLIAM*, whoſe Sirname is *Juſt*, and whoſe *Title* is ſo much *beyond* Controverſie, that even *meddling* would (if poſſible) *leſſen* and *diſhonour* it; I ſay, this cannot but be extreamly *ſerviceable* to *him*, eſpecially when I ſhow the *Indiſpenſability* of the *Oath of Allegiance*, which we *have*, or *ſhall* take at any time to our *Lawful Prince*, and how the *Breach* of *it* will moſt certainly *draw* upon *Tranſgreſſors* all the *Plagues* and *Judgments* that the *higheſt Perjury* can deſerve.

The *Indiſpenſability* of the ſaid *Oath* appears (even at the firſt ſight) by the *intent* and *purpoſe* of it; For 'twas *purpoſely* fram'd, and deſign'd (by our *Lawful* Governours) to *oblige all*, that took it, to a ſtrict *remembrance*, and *performance* too of their *natural duty, in caſe our Lawful King were in any danger or misfortune*; and this they hop'd it might chance to accompliſh, by *alarming* not only good Men, and ſo *cauſe* them to have their *Eyes* and *Hands* in readineſs, but by *obviating* alſo all ſly *Inſinuations* and *Fancies*, as if *Allegiance* were an *indifferent* thing, and at the *pleaſure* of a *Subject*; for an *Oath* (*the end of ſtrife*) makes *indifferency* become an *obligation*. Now to give my *Reader* a full and true *Idea* of the *Breach* of a Lawful *promiſſary Oath*, and what a *vile baſeneſs* it is in a *Subject*, as well as a *foul ſin*, I ſhall here lay down a very *remarkable* Example, and (as I believe) very *pertinent* alſo to the preſent buſineſs.

Henry the firſt (drawing towards his end) called his *Great Lords* and *prime Subjects* together, and then told them that his Son being Dead, and *Maw*

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(*his ſole Heir*) being therefore to be their *Queen*, he deſired (for his *own ſatisfaction*, as well as for *preventing* all ſcruples about *Women*) that they would own, and *ſwear Allegiance to Her*. This being deemed *very far* from unreaſonable, they did it not only *once* but *thrice* alſo; yet after his Death, one *Stephen* (*ſeiſing* the *Crown*) *was declar'd the true and Lawful Monarch*. But that the whole matter may be yet more *plain* and *Eaſie*, 'twill not perchance be inconvenient (before I go on further) to let the *Reader* fully underſtand, *who* and *what* the ſaid *Stephen* was.

He was (it ſeems) *Nephew* to the *former King*, and (if we credit ſome *Hiſtorians*) a kind of *Son in Law* alſo. He had a *Feud* in *France*, and upon that account was called *Earl*, or *Prince* of *Bologne*, a *little Inconſiderable* thing in an out-*Province* of that *Kingdom*, which (as to its *Yearly value*) was even Inferiour to *Sheffield*, and ſeveral other *Mannors* in our *Nation*. Nay (if I miſtake not) He had been for ſome time *Commander in chief* of the Armies of the *Earls of Flanders*; who were then the moſt *conſiderable* of any in the whole *Low Countrys*. This *Stephen* (*who well knew* (*it ſeems how to forſwear and break an Oath for advantage*) having now (as I ſaid) *Uſurp'd the Throne*, and many *Enormities* being *found* (to be ſure) in the *preceding Reign*, no body more pertly *aſſerts* His Right, than the Paultry *Biſhop of Salisbury*; *one* (as all our *Writers* have it) that was wholly *obſcure* of himſelf, and *beholden* altogether to Fortune and good hitts; *one falſe* and *Treacherous* by Nature, and (which made it beyond Cure) that thought it *Wit* to be ſo; *one* that had *formerly* received much *Countenance* and *Favour* from the *late King*; and *one* alſo that (more than once) *ſwore* the forementioned *Oath*, which again particularly *oblig'd* him to a *true* and *ſteady* Allegiance to his *Prince* and *Lawful* Succeſſour; and yet now ran *counter* to it, as well by *diſtinctions* and *inſinuating* diſcourſes, as by the *ſhamefnl* and overt Act.

Yet not to make the *Devil* uglier than he is (tho it be the *new mode* to *Blacken* even *Angels of Light*) This *precious* Divine (notwithſtanding his *ſeveral Idle* Sophiſms) had *more ſenſe* than to bolt out the leaſt Argument in favour of a *Conqueſt*: And to ſpeak truth, how was it poſſible for a Man (that had any regard to himſelf) to *pretend* to ſo *ſilly* a thing, ſeeing *Stephen* had never *fought* for the *Crown*; nor ever directly, or indirectly *ſtood* upon any *Right* of *Foree*; but *took* and *received* the *Government* upon the *ſole conſcientious invitation* and *Agreement* of our *Great Men*. Beſides ſince *petty Principalities* or *Royalties* (the former Gifts of *Emperours* and *Kings* to deſerving Men) are *Eſtates* that may be *bought* by any *mean* Banker (and we know 'tis *frequently* done to *this very day* in *Germany* and *elſewhere*) therefore the *Civil Law*, or *Law* of *Nations* look upon theſe *Toparchs* (tho Abſolute enough among their *Vaſſals*) with another *ſort* of Eye, and place them in another *Claſs* than they do thoſe, who are *truly* ſtiled *Soveraign Princes*; ſo that if *theſe* ſhould chance *Sculkingly* to *Invade* the *other*, *they* might (if taken) be *Legally* proſecuted and puniſhed as *Pilferers*, and the like. Laſtly, *Stephen* being (as I ſaid before) a *Servant* and *Subject* (for a *General* that receives *Wages* is as much ſo as any *common Sculdier*) had he by *War* and *Battle* brought *England* under his Power, yet this *Acquiſt* muſt have been (as all *Civilians* tell us) *his Maſters* not his *own*.

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But perchance I *excuſe* our *worthy* Biſhop too much; for 'twas not (it may be) *truth* that hindered him from inſiſting on the *ridiculous* Title of *Conqueſt*, but common *Prudence*; as reaſonably apprehending, *that* a *Doctrine, that takes away all Freedome and Property from every Engliſhman*; might well *deſerve* ſome *remarkable* cenſure in *Parliament*; and *Parliaments* in former daies were (by fitts) as *hot* as thoſe that lately *ruined* poor *Sibthorp*, and *Manwaring*, for a *Tenet* not half ſo *fooliſh*, not half ſo *dangerous*, nor half ſo *ſcandalous* as *this*. For, were *this* truly ſo, every *Gallant* that gets (in a Factious time) the *Crown*, and perchance *Monſieur Blood* among the reſt (eſpecially if *ſome Men* want an argument) will preſently forſooth *claim* the almighty Title. And let me again tell my *Reader*, that not only *all* we poſſeſs, *belongs* really to a *Conquerour*, but (ſhould *he* paſs an *Act* or *two* in *favour* of the *Subject*) who knows the *Equitable Plea of having been deceived in his Grant*, may not come into his thoughts; and then (—Arma Tenenti &c.) the Lord have mercy upon us all. Curſed therefore be the *wretch*, that dares *call* any Man *Conquerour* of *England*. But ſtill a *great Patriot* a *Man of God* is exempted, and far out of the reach of this *wiſh*, tho in his *Arcadia*, or *Paſtoral*, he ſtands highly upon a *Conqueſt*; for every *one* that can Read his A B C *knows*, that, beſides his uſual *Tropes* and *Figures*, he has a *pretty way* of his *own*, and therefore only means, *I'll engage that the Victory of the moſt potent William was over our Hearts, and not our Lands and Purſes.*

To proceed. If then the *Advancing of Stephen* were a *horrid Perjury*; and truly the *Remarks* of *Baker* are not (I ſee) always impertinent; for he tells us, *That many as well of theſe Biſhops, as the other Lords, came afterward (for this grand Villany) to an ill End, or at leaſt to many Calamities before their End.* I ſay if this were a *horrid Perjury*, how black and unexcuſable muſt the *Breach Now* be, when our *Religion* is ſo *pure*; when the *Oath* is ſo *Declaratory* againſt any *Evaſion* or *double Meaning*; when the *Statute-Law* (a Law not ſo well *known* to our *Anceſtors*) has in expreſs Terms *taken away all pretences for Rebellion*; and laſtly, when *We* have ſo *often*, and upon ſo *many* accounts, *openly* in the preſence of *God* and *Man diſown'd all power in Pope or Devil, of hurting, as well the Rights, as the Perſon of our Lawful Sovereign?*

Now ſeeing there's neither *If* nor *And* in this *Oath*; and ſeeing the *Oath* it ſelf was *purpoſely* made (as I ſaid) to *Remember us of, and to ſtir, and keep us up to our Duty in times of Troubles and Affliction*, (for *Kings* want no Body's *Duty* but *then*) it cannot be but pleaſant (and the Arguments alſo are *much* to be heeded) to hear a Man (upon the *Succeſſes* of a *Rebellion*, or the like) gravely to Philoſophize, and *poſitively* to Aſſert, *That we are abſolv'd from our Oath.* Nor is it leſs agreeable when we ask the Reaſon *Why*, to have this *excellent* one palm'd upon us, becauſe (forſooth) *the King cannot Protect us*; to which I anſwer, *Then we ought to Protect him.* For I am ſure this was the *Impoſers* meaning at the *giving* of the *Oath*; as hoping thereby to *prevent* the being *deſerted* his *ſubjects.*

Tho the *Devil* be *God's Ape*, and therefore ſome *Uſurpers* have *ſome times* impoſed their *Oaths* alſo, yet *Ours* here in *England* have *ſeldom* or never done it in general. For we read not of any thus *required* by the aforeſaid *Stephen*, by *Hen.* 4, or by *Rich.* 3. nay honeſt *Cromwell* (like *Gallio*) *cared for none*

of

of thoſe things. And certainly they were all in the *Right*, and far *Wiſer* than to think that thoſe whom their *former Oaths* could not *keep true* to their reſpective *Lawful Kings*, would be *obliged* now to *Them* by any *tie* of that nature. They know too, that it makes (out of *pity* as well as *juſtice*) the *Refuſers* much more *eſteemed* and *conſiderable*; and that this too often awakens their *own* Party, and brings upon *many* a *concern* for their *former* weakneſs and miſcarriage. Nor were they even then ignorant that *Compulſion* and *Dragooning* (when a Conſcience is *doubtful* and *ſqueamiſh*) cauſes *often* numbers not only to *complain*, but be *ſtubborn*, who would otherwiſe have been *Tepid*, and perchance at laſt on *their ſide*. Beſides, *Oaths ſwallowed* with an ill will, *riſe* generally in the Stomach; and if ſuch *Perſons* happen to be but a little *diſguſted*, they turn (not ſeldom) the greateſt *Enemies* imaginable.

No *Maxim* alſo ſeemed more *ridiculous* and *falſe* to our ſaid *Uſurpers* than this; *That men ought not to have the ordinary protection of a Government, who refuſe the ordinary aſſurance of living quietly under the Government.* For ſince an *Oath* was no *tye*, but brought (as I ſhewed) great *inconveniences* often with it; and that *depopulation* muſt then neceſſarily *follow* (as we now *ſee* in *Savoy*, *&c.*) when the demands of one *Great Party* are oppoſite to the Profeſſion and Tenets of the *other*; therefore they (like *wiſe* men) *depended*, in relation to *ſafety*, on *vigilancy* and *care*, and not on the ſlight and weak Reed of *Swearing*. Upon this account therefore *They had Forces on foot*; upon this account *They often diſarm'd the ſuſpected*; and ſometimes alſo *Impriſon'd them*; eſpecially if *extraordinary* Accidents happen'd. Thus Men may give *common Protection* to Travellers or Strangers, tho their *Country* be no *friend*; Thus *Priſoners* of War, and *Servants* in our Plantations may be *beneficial*, and yet *Hate* the *Government*; Thus the *Turks* deal with *Chriſtians*, and thus do all that *Get the upper-hand*, that are not *Lunatics* or *Mad*.

Now tho there be no ſuch *Coxcombs* under the copes of Heaven, that will Aſſert or Fancy, that a *Child* can be *worth* hanging, as to his *Book*, who may go to *School*, and *leave* it *when* he *pleaſes*; yet we have in *England* moſt *egregious Fools* and *Knaves*, that p[illegible]dder much to have the *Nation ſtrictly obedient* (as they pretend) to the *incomparable William* and *Mary*; and at the ſame time tell us, *We are not indiſpenſably Bound to our Lawful Princes.* I could *aſk* theſe *Gentlemen*, whether there *ever* was a *Rebellion?* and they *will*, I am ſure, *anſwer Yes*; and particularly *call* every *Riſing* ſo, that *Touches* their Humour or Intereſt. I could *aſk* them alſo whether they can *ſhew* me here, or in any other part of the World, a *Rebellion* without a *Lamentable Cry*, and that had not at hand a *Bead-Roll of Oppreſſions and Injuſtice*; and then (ſuppoſing all this) let me deſire them to come (for all their *Learning*) to one *reaſonable Diſtinguo?* But ſince my *Paper* will not *permit* ſuch Excurſions, and much leſs ſuffer me to Examine their reſpective *Arguments* about *Oaths* and *Obedience* (*Arguments* far eaſier *anſwer'd* than *repeated*) I ſhall therefore only preſent them now with a *Suppoſe* or *two*; which (tho it be *Bis coctum Crambe*; *heated Cabbage*, or, in our Mother tongue, *the ſame thing over again*) will yet, new-dreſt, and apply'd, make what *They have*, *can*, or *ſhall* ſay, fall on their own *weak* Heads, and Grind all into *Sand* and *Duſt*, even *lighter* (if poſſible) than Themſelves.

Sup-

Suppoſe then *William* and *Mary* being (as no body can *certainly* deny) *our undoubtedly Lawful King* and *Queen*, that *one* of *Harriſon's* or *Lilbourn's Royal Progeny* were for ſetting up again the *Kingdom of Jeſus Chriſt*; and *effectually* to accompliſh it, did *endeavour* to be his *Vice-Roy till He came*. And by the way (tho in reality *The Chariots and Horſemen of Iſrael are again making ready*) I cannot but bring in this *well-known* Inſtance, to make the whole the more *Ridiculous*, and conſequently the more *clear*; for *Tros Tyriuſq; mihi — Lancaſter* to me (as to Title) is *Jack Straw*, whileſt *Clarence* has an *Heir*; nor do I value *York* more than *Watt Tyler*, if he ſtands *wholly* upon his *own Right*, as a *Cadet*, or *Younger Brother*. Let us now (to go on) ſuppoſe yet further, that *Their Majeſties* (to obviate the *infamous* Deſign of this *hopeful Deliverer*) do appeal (in reſpect of *Right* and *Poſſeſſion*) to the known *Laws* of the *Land*; that *they* alſo ſhow us, *that the Statute of* Edw. 3. *makes every man a Traytor, that Aſſiſts, let his pretence be Religion, Liberty, Property, or what he pleaſes*; and in ſhort, that (to make the *ſubjects* in general more *careful*, or at leaſt more *mindful*) *they* Swear *all*, in plain and ample words, *to be true and faithful to them, and to their Lawful Heirs*, viz. to their *Children*, *and Childrens Children born in Wedlock*, the *Sons preceding Daughters*, and the *Elder*, the *Younger* of either *Sex*, according to the *cuſtom of the Kingdom*. *All this* being then *ſuppoſed*; would it not *curdle* one's *Blood* in his *Veins*, and make one's *Hair* ſtand like *Briſtles*, to *hear* but a *Hum* or a *Hah*, as to our *Duty* and *Allegiance* to Their *Majeſties*? What would an *old Heathen* think of an *Engliſhman* that (after all theſe particulars) *could* not only cheerfully *ſwear Allegiance* to the *Enthuſiaſt*, but would *publickly maintain*, that what he *ſwears* is *lawful* and *juſt*: I ſay wou'd not a *Diſtinction* (in *this caſe*) turn a *Man* into a *Statue*? and would not *any Pagan* wiſh, *for the ſpeed of an Arrow*, leſt the Iſland ſhould *ſink* before he could *get out of it*. Nay, what *Turk* or *Jew* is there (*tho he had ſeen all the Miracles of Chriſt*) that would not cry *Nolo Baptizari*, if a *Chriſtian* ſhould pretend to *Faith* or *Troth* after ſo *Monſtrous* a Breach.

If it be ask'd, *what muſt be then done*, when the *Winds* are high, when this *ſtorm* Rages, and both *Fields* and *Vineyards* fall within the ſphere of the impetuous *Hurricane*? I Anſwer, *remember ſtill your firſt Love*; for if a *Spark*, a *Cavalier*, Swears *Cum Paris Oenone* &c.——His new *Ligue* with *Helen* will certainly *ruine* Him and His. I anſwer again, *remember the intrinſic value of a ſacred promiſe*, even *that* which all the *terrours* of *Afric* could never make a *Regulus* to *forget*. In fine, I anſwer, and poſitively I ſay it, *remember* (tho *Antiochus* Reigns,) *that Swines-fleſh is not to be Eaten*. But now if thro' *Intereſt*, *Raſhneſs*, or *Fear*, a Man ſhould ſuccumb, and ſwallow the *curſed thing*, he is not yet loſt, if in the firſt place *He asks God forgiveneſs*, (for that will certainly *attone* and *reconcile* Him to the *King* in Heaven, as well as to our *King* on Earth) and then if he immediately reflects, how much *Scylla's Oath* to *betray* her *Father Niſus* and his *Kingdom* did *oblige* her to the *Contract*; how much *we* are bound to *kill* a *Neighbour* if *paſſion* or the like ſhould *make us ſwear* the Performance; and again whether *we* ought to diſcover the private Avenues of a *Friends Houſe*, becauſe a *Miſcreants Piſtol* made us ſolemnly *engage* to do it. Thoughts here in the *Affirmative*, are *Pelion* upon *Oſſa*, *ſin* on *ſin*: ſo that a wilful *perſeverance* is the very *Fact* (as I have formerly ſaid) *which will never*

be

be forgiven in this World, nor in the World to come. By all which 'tis evident that, as *Contradictories* can never be *both true*; ſo there can be but *one Lawful King* in *England*, which makes all *others* but *meer troubleſome Scare-Crows* and *Impoſtors*.

But ſince I am fallen upon the *word Impoſtor*; I muſt not (tho much preſſed in time) paſs by, without mentioning the *grand One*; I mean *little Mahomet*, or *Him*, whom not a few, as well *Proteſtants* as *Papiſts*, call and deem *the True Prince of Wales*. Now, that the World may ſee, that men (when they pleaſe) can be far more *wilful* than Mules, and *deafer* alſo than an inchanted Adder; I will here give my *Reader* a ſmack or taſte of ſome of the wiſe Arguments, with which the *Muſſelmen* or *Tories* defend the Paradox; and then I'll ſhew in *ſix words* (for Truth hates Meanders and Ambages) how the *Loyal* can (like *Hercules* himſelf) tear open *young Cacus*'s Den, and ſo with one Pull expoſe the *mighty* Thief in all his Shapes and Colours.

Firſt, Thoſe odd *Jacobites* ask in what *Region* or *Age* was ſuch a *Hocus-Pocus-Trick* ever yet played? Nay (omitting the Authors of *Caſſandra*, *Grand Cyrus*, and *men* in that Claſſe of Fancy) they demand whether *Bays* durſt for ſhame venture on a *Plot* founded on this Impoſſible Suppoſition; That a *Great Queen* living *publickly*, and after her *uſual manner* in a *thronged*, *prying* and *ſuſpicious Court*, was not only to carry a *fictitious Great Belly Nine Months* undiſcovered, but was alſo with the like ſucceſs to be *brought to Bed* in a *Chamber* crowded with *Perſons* of both *Sexes*, and many of them utter *Enemies* to *Her* and *Hers*.

Secondly, That tho this might paſs muſter at the *Antipodes*, or in *Terra Incognita*, yet how could it be effected in *England*, when there would be (in ſpite of Fate) Great *Men* and *Women* that muſt be *Spectators* and *Actors* too in the *Play*, not only of different Intereſts and Factions, but that *hated* both *Papiſts* and *Popery*, as much as *Calvin* and *Luther* ever did; and Perſons alſo, to whom the *Diſcovery* would infallibly have been much more *Advantageous*, than the *Concealment*.

Thirdly, Was it poſſible for *King James* (of whoſe Morality moſt Men had a good Opinion) not only to put by (and with ſuch hazard too) *both* his *Daughters*, which had received ſuch *Conſtant* marks of his *Tenderneſs*, but to *Diſinherit* (by a *Suppoſititious Brat*) any *Son* that he might chance to have by this *Queen*, who was ſtill Young, or by a *New One* if ſhe died; nor could his *conſtant Hunting*, or other *manly Exerciſes* but aſſure every body of his *ſtill remaining Vigour*.

Fourthly, They ask whether the *Practic part* were not yet (if poſſible) more Impoſſible than what has been already hinted. For (ſay they) there muſt have been at leaſt *three or four Women* procured, of the utmoſt *Fidelity*, and all with *Child*, and of the ſame *Reckoning*; who (when they came *near* their Time, muſt be alſo taken from their Friends and Acquaintance (which could not but occaſion ſtrange talk and diſorder) to be *put* in *ſecret* places near the Court; for one or two (beſides Accidents) might bring forth *Daughters*, and if they were all to be *Delivered* in their reſpective *Dwellings*, the Cheat would not be concealed two hours.

Fifthly, after all theſe *unexpreſſible* Difficulties, *New* ones (they ſay) yet

greater must follow. For upon the first Womans being in *Labour*, the *Queen* must presently be so too, where-ever she were; and if that *Child* happen'd to be a *Female*, the whole *Scene* must be re-acted, *i. e.* deferr'd till the next *Woman* cry'd out. Now when fortune should bring a *Boy*, it must be carry'd with all its *After-Birth*, &c. (thro a Court, which would have in it for certain many Curious Eyes, do what they could) into the *Queens* Bed, either before she were lay'd, or *after*; If *before*, then the *Query* is, whether a *Child* (were he not in that strange impossible *pickle*) could *lye* under the *Cloathes*, for three or four hours, and neither be *stifled*, nor *cry*. If the famous *Warming-Pan* were brought in afterwards, then the *Chamber* must be necessarily (*as it was*) *full* of Men and Women: And how could they *place* the *Creature* (a thing to be done with wonderful gentleness and care) in a *Bed*, if not in the *presence* of *Men*, yet in the *open* view and sight of, God knows how many *Ladies* and *Women*, that encompass'd the *Queen*; and still the *Child* (notwithstanding Her Majesties many *turnings* and seeming *throes*) was neither to be *smother'd* nor to *cry*.

Sixthly, they say, let all this also pass, and let my Lady *Sunderland* her self be *mistaken*, that swore, *She forwarded the Birth with her hand*; but how can a *Child* after so *long a stay*, come out of the Bed *reeking* like one *newly Born*, as so many *Protestant Doctors* themselves swore? Nay, they depos'd that the *Blood* came from the very *Navel-string* when they cut it, which they gave the *Child* for a Medicine against Convulsions.

Lastly: Well then (*cry they*) for once we'll suppose the present *Loyal* people of *England* turn'd *Papists*; that is to say, Persons that will *maintain* any Impossibility if *Religion* and *Interest* commands it; as also that the *Countesses* of *Peterborow*, *Sunderland*, *Roscommon*, *Lady Bellasis*, and other great Protestant Peeresses, and of the *Bed-Chamber*, will Dispence with an *Oath*, tho' the *Dispensing Power* be now Null and Void by Law: We will suppose too, (continue they) that my *Lady Wentworth*, *Mrs. Bromley*, *Dawson*, with the rest of the *Dressers* once known to be most *Zealous* against *Popery*, will now rather *forswear* themselves, than that *Popery* should not be *secur'd*: Add besides to this, that a crowd of Protestant *Doctors*, *Apothecaries*, *Surgeons*, and other *necessary people*, are to go to the *Devil* for Company; But how came it (*roar* they out higher than *Stentor* and *Moreland*) that the Princess of *Denmark* whom the *Cheat* so much concern'd both as to *Religion* and *Interest*) could neither perceive it all along with her *own* Eyes, nor with those of her *Faithful* Ladies? If she did, the *Difficulty* (they say) is harder; for 'twas impossible that she would be *silent* and *mealy-mouth*'d, that had the *Courage* and *Piety* (in Defence of *Religion* and *Property*) to forsake her *Fathers house*, and to *Head* an *Army* against his *Wicked Councellors*, as we all know. But further (proceed they in the like tone) Is it not beyond Comprehension, if things had been but suspicious, and much more if really so, that *William* and *Mary* (who hazarded their All for the *Gospel* and *Common Justice*) should upon the *Childs Birth* send *Monsieur Zuleistein* as their *Embassadour*, *to Congratulate with the King and Queen*; *to Visit and Complement him* as *Prince of Wales*; and which is yet stranger, to *Insert* him in the *Collect* of the *Royal Family*, and consequently Pray for *Him* thus in their *own public Chappels*...

Now

Now as an assuredly compleating blast (which blows away every Corn of *Doubt*) They stretch their voice and cry ; Tho all these unaccountable Blots were overseen formerly, why did both *King William* and the *Parliament* join in a manner with these *Clancys* and *Bourbs* by their *present silence*, which makes the *Cheat* (if it had been one) not only *victorious*, but *invincible*. Nay a *Parliament* also that had all the Reason in the World to take the Business in hand, both for our *future Quiet*, and for the confounding of all *King James's* Party ; since the fiercest of them, would (upon this proof) have granted, *that nothing could be said against him* that was false.

Thus reason these *extravagant* Men: But now let us hear, how all is answered (as I said) in six words by these *Loyal*, *Wise* and *Conscientious* men, that have *contributed* so much to our *Deliverance*, and *helpt* to put us in our present *happy* and *flourishing* condition.

Was not a *Prince of Wales* (answer they) for the *Advantage* of the *Papists*? are they not a *restless* Party ? and is there any thing they will not *do* or *venture* for the *advancement* of their *Religion* ? all men know what *Dispensations* they have ; and how indefatigable they are in propagating their Cheats ? and how *subtly* they always endeavour'd to *amuse* and *confound* poor *Protestants*. The *piety* of the *King* and *Queen* is apparent, who wave the *blackening* of a Father, as such *secret actions* must do, when *publick* to the World ; and what is more *ridiculous*, and *below* a *Parliament*, *than in time of great business*, *to debate*, *and then vote 'tis day at Noon*. *Rex & Regina beati.*

Quid agitur in Anglia ? consulitur de Religione, non de Partu.

FINIS.